# Tsetsaut language

The **Tsetsaut language** is an extinct Athabascan language formerly spoken by the now-extinct Tsetsaut in the Behm and Portland Canal area of Southeast Alaska and northwestern British Columbia. Virtually everything known of the language comes from the limited material recorded by Franz Boas in 1894 from two Tsetsaut slaves of the Nisga'a, which is enough to establish that Tsetsaut formed its own branch of Athabaskan. It is not known precisely when the language became extinct. One speaker was still alive in 1927. The Nisga'a name for the Tsetsaut people is "Jits'aawit"[2]

The Tsetsaut referred to themselves as the *Wetał*. The English name *Tsetsaut* is an anglicization of [tsʼətsʼaut], "those of the interior", used by the Gitxsan and Nisga'a to refer to the Athabaskan-speaking people to the north and east of them, including not only the Tsetsaut but some Tahltan and Sekani.

| Tsetsaut | |
|---|---|
| *Wetał·* | |
| **Native to** | Canada |
| **Region** | Northern British Columbia |
| **Ethnicity** | Tsetsaut |
| **Extinct** | mid 20th century |
| **Language family** | Dené–Yeniseian? <br> ■ Na-Dené <br>  ■ Athabaskan <br>   ■ Northern Athabaskan <br>    ■ **Tsetsaut** |
| **Language codes** | |
| **ISO 639-3** | txc |
| **Linguist List** | txc (http://multitree.org/codes/txc) |
| **Glottolog** | tset1236 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/tset1236)[1] |

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## Examples

The examples by Merritt Ruhlen:[3]

- **ło ʔ** fish
- **xɔ** grizzly bear
- **xadzinɛ** male deer
- **qax** rabbit
- **go ʔ** snake
- **ts'alɛ** frog
- **ts'esdja** mosquito
- **tsrāma ʔ** wasp
- **at'ɔ** nest
- **ɛkyagɔ** ankle
- **ał'ɔq'** liver
- **dlɛ** dance
- **kwuł'** dirt
- **na** mother
- **tä'** father
- **isča** grandchild
- **axa** hair
- **ała(ʔ)** hand
- **txa** kick
- **mmē** lake
- **xuts'ede'** left

## Bibliography

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# References

1. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Tsetsaut" (http://glott olog.org/resource/languoid/id/tset1236). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
2. "K'alii Xk'alaan" (https://apps.gov.bc.ca/pub/bcgnws/names/53995.html). BC Geographical Names.
3. Merritt Ruhlen (1994) On the Origin of Languages (Studies in Linguistic Taxonomy)

# External links

- First Nations Languages of British Columbia page (http://www.ydli.org/langs/tsetsaut.htm)
- OLAC resources in and about the Tsetsaut language (http://www.language-archives.org/language/txc)